(c) No estimates in this regard have been made.

Setting up of Settlement Commissioner's Offices

1950. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:
SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Settlement Commissioner's Offices in different parts of the country to settle income-tax and wealth-tax cases;

(b) if so, what are the names of the places where these offices are proposed to be set up;

(c) whether Settlement Commissioner's offices are proposed to be manned by officers drawn from the Central Board of Direct Taxes; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the age of retirement of members of Central Board of Direct Taxes and what is the proposed age of retirement of officers of Settlement Commissioner's offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) A proposal to set up a few more offices of Settlement Commissioner's in some parts of the country to settle income-tax and wealth-tax cases is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Since the matter is still under consideration, the required information is not available.

(d) The age of retirement of the members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes is 58 years. Proposed age of retirement of officers of Settlement Commissioner's is still under consideration.

Loan assistance to sugar factories in Maharashtra

1951. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many sugar factories in Maharashtra have asked for loan assistance from public financial institutions;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has written a letter to him to look into the matter; and

(c) if so, what steps the Central Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) IDBI has reported that three sugar factories in co-operative sector in Maharashtra have asked for loan assistance from public financial institutions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Matter had been taken up with the financial institutions. It has been reported by them, that in view of heavy overdues on the part of existing sugar mills of Maharashtra, the institutions have taken a view that further disbursements to new units would be made after the defaults of existing units are cleared or a satisfactory formula for liquidation of principal dues is received from Government of Maharashtra.

Long-term loans for Cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra

1952. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications from cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra are at present pending with the public financial institutions for long-term loans; and

(b) by when decision is likely to be taken on these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) IDBI has reported that there are two term loan proposals of cooperative spinning mills in Maharashtra pending with financial institutions. Decision on these proposals is expected to be taken shortly.

Textile mills lying closed in the country

1953. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be *pleased to state:*

(a) what is the number of textile mills lying closed in the country at present;

(b) what is the number of such mills which belong to the NTC;

(c) what is the number of workers who have become jobless due to the closing down of these mills; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the interests of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Seventy four cotton Textile Mills were closed as at the end of July, 1986.

(b) The number of such NTC owned/managed mills is three.

(c) The number of workers affected is 103259.

(d) A rehabilitation Fund has been created to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed due to permanent closure of textile mills. According to this scheme, a displaced worker will get a tapering amount for three years, at the rate of 75 per cent of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50 per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year.

Tax holiday enjoyed by Free Trade Zone units

1954. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the five year tax holiday currently being enjoyed by units in the free trade zones (FTZs) is proposed to be extended for another three years; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No Sir. However the present tax holiday of five consecutive years has been proposed to be permitted to be chosen out of the initial eight assessment years commencing from the assessment year relating to the previous year in which such concerns commence manufacture or production.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of a Regional Office of L.I.C. in Andhra Pradesh

1955. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Southern Regional Office of the Life Insurance Corporation is at present located at Madras and the policyholders of Andhra Pradesh have to depend upon this Office for redressal of their grievances;

(b) whether the Corporation has any plan to open a Regional Office in Hyderabad or in any other town of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be set up and if not, what are the reasons therefor?